

**BCN ExCom Meeting  
July 7, 2021  
Online Video Conference**

In Attendance: Sonny Cohen, Diane Hicks, Charlotte Pavelka, Rita Renwick, Vera Leopold, Tim Balassie, Tom Mulcahy

President Sonny Cohen called the meeting to order at 10 am.

**Treasurer's Report- 7/7/21: Pavelka**

**1) Membership Report – 2021 membership paid by 19 organizations/2 individuals**

Prairie Woods has disbanded.

American Bird Conservancy has been invoiced.

**2) Treasurer's Report**

**2021 Income - YTD:**

|                      |             |                             |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Dues:                | \$ 1,970.00 |                             |
| Donations - General: | \$ 14.37    | Donation from John Petoskey |
| Donations - Trends:  | \$ 2,232.90 |                             |
| Grant - Trends:      |             |                             |
| Total:               | \$ 4,217.27 |                             |

**2021 Expenses - YTD:**

|                               |             |     |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Trends Analysis - 1st Payment | \$ 3,000.00 |     |
| Annual Transfer to Trends:    | \$ 500.00   |     |
| Dues to Other organizations   | \$ 150.00   | IEC |
| Printing                      |             |     |
| Secretary of State – Annual   | \$ 10.00    |     |
| Webhost & Retainer Fees       |             |     |
| Total                         | \$ 3,660.00 |     |

2021 Net Income - YTD: \$ 557.27

|                                   |              |                       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Checkbook balance - 6/30/2021:    | \$ 15,526.72 | Total                 |
| Trends Analysis Reserve:          | \$ 7,066.60  | Reserve +             |
| General Funds Balance on 6/30/21: | \$ 8,460.12  | Grant/Donations       |
|                                   |              | Balance net of Trends |
|                                   |              | Analysis              |

### **3) Government Reporting**

State of Illinois Annual Report Submitted - 12/23/2020

Federal Tax Filing e-postcard 990N filed - 1/21/2021

Renewal application for Tax-Exempt status submitted - 6/24/21

### **Monitoring Update**

Balassie reported that there are no current updates. Hicks asked if eBird lists in point count areas (not birds included in point counts) are used. Balassie stated that BCN does not use them, but they add to the historical record for sites monitored and are valuable for that purpose. Monitors may do this but must be careful to enter data into the regular eBird portal and not the BCN portal.

Mulcahy shared information about a July 27 Cornell Lab of Ornithology seminar about the new sound feature of the Merlin Bird ID app. He suggested this might be posted on BCN's Facebook page. Cohen stated that he would do this. This might be helpful to monitors. Balassie said that he could do an email blast.

Mulcahy also stated that about 25 people attended each of the three Zoom bird ID classes run by Sagawau Environmental Learning Center. Two individuals joined the monitor program. A few existing monitors used the classes as a review. Tom will encourage Sagawau to schedule classes next year. Cohen stated that even a few new monitors was a positive result.

**Trends Analysis and Birds of Concern Updates:** Cohen stated that the two major BCN projects are near completion. The Trends Analysis was received on June 19 from our contractor. Birds of Concern was completed June 21 with the assistance of Donna Kenski, a BCN monitor, who has a data management background. We are approaching completion of the project.

### **Process for Review**

Since receiving compiled information on June 19 and 21, Cohen has shared same with Judy Pollock and Bob Fisher. It has been shared with the Science Advisors; Aubrey Sirman, Doug Stotz, Jim Herkert, Stephanie Beilke, Gary Casper, and Trixi Lange. It will be sent to the BCN Committee consisting of Aubrey Sirman, Chris Monaghan, Matt Igleski, Tim Balassie, Judy Pollock, Sonny Cohen as well as ExCom, Eric Secker, and Donna Kenski who will get the information into a format used for the previous Trends Analysis. This immediate group will review the TA and Birds of Concern before distribution to the entire BCN group.

Cohen proposed a discussion and interpretation Zoom meeting with the immediate group to compile an editorial about the information-the good, bad, noteworthy. This would be the next step now that projects are complete.

Balassie asked how we will distribute information and will we include an explanation. Chris Williamson had asked about this procedure.

Cohen commented that we can put in on our website, but we need some interpretation. The BCN Committee and Science Advisors can advise on adding conclusions. Because work to get the Trends Analysis completed was very protracted – done in many stages by volunteers – who are heroes for their work-he would like to see the TA put on the website now. Funds raised for the project are sufficient to allow Secker to do the extra work needed to get data on the website. We have 20 years of data to share-1999 to 2020 and will need to figure out how best to put it together.

Balassie suggested the committee meet before we publicize results. We can release it to the press as some type of paper-what results mean, implications to birds of Chicago Wilderness. He suggested not putting them (TA & Birds of Concern) up prematurely.

Cohen responded that it would take Eric time to put it up. He can prepare it so he can quickly get it on the site when we OK it. The reality is that a consensus from group review may be difficult, but delay is not preferable. We have had many challenges including getting data in a form to get to our contractor, Valerie. Donna Kenski did great work in assembling information and redid it more than once.

Mulcahy suggested that the BCN Committee and Science Advisors send written responses to Cohen.

Although he does not favor communication by email, Cohen will send out an email to the review group so everyone can see who gets it and may respond to all if they choose. Comments will be collected in one place. Then conclusions can be drawn.

Cohen stated that our contractor, Valerie was very patient and very good.

### **Contractor -payment and open issues (\$7,200)**

Pavelka stated that \$3000 of the \$7,200 contract has been paid. The TA should be modeled in a format that was done in the past and our contractor, Valerie, is trying to give us a process document in a form of our choosing. It was suggested that we pay an additional \$3,000 and hold back \$1,200 until completion of the process.

### **Motion: Pay TA Contractor an additional \$3,000.**

Moved: Mulcahy

Second: Leopold

Action: Approved

## **New Officer Succession**

Cohen reflected that the history of BCN has been that a small cadre of the same people have assumed leadership roles for decades-not unlike what happens in other groups. In 2018, Cohen stepped in to carry out completion of the Trends Analysis. There is a need for new leadership and current office holders should be considering candidates. Monitors might be fertile ground for consideration. New officers need not be at-large or chapter reps and can come from anywhere. ExCom membership can be an officer steppingstone but need not be. Certain skill sets are needed. If we do not find new officers, we could cease to exist after January. Succession will be a topic for the next BCN meeting.

## **Other Announcements**

Pavelka reported that American Bird Conservancy has opened a Great Lakes office and asked to join BCN. Pavelka has invoiced them.

Cohen commented that things are going well. Monitoring has three days left and we have a new BCN member -ABC.

Monitor Report -Balassie will not be able to attend the July 17 quarterly meeting. There will be a monitor coordinator meeting in August or September. Pavelka asked how many monitors we had this year and how many sites were identified. Balassie stated that Chris Monaghan waits until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the calendar year to get an extract from Cornell. Chris works with the extract, then produces a huge excel spreadsheet with all information. This will probably be ready late in the third quarter of this year.

## **Other Business**

Cohen thanked members for attending. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Renwick  
BCN Secretary